

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	i
Index of Tables	viii
Index of Figures.....	ix
Executive Summary	ES-1
1.0 Purpose and Need	1-1
1.1 Introduction.....	1-1
1.1.1 Project Location	1-1
1.1.2 Study Area Description.....	1-1
1.1.3 Topography	1-1
1.1.4 Land Use	1-1
1.1.5 History.....	1-1
1.2 Purpose.....	1-3
1.2.1 Project Background and Study History.....	1-3
1.3 Need	1-7
1.3.1 Traffic	1-7
1.3.2 Safety	1-8
1.3.2.1 Emergency Vehicle Response Times.....	1-8
1.3.2.2 Vehicular and Pedestrian Accidents	1-8
1.3.3 Railroad Operations	1-8
1.3.4 Social Demands	1-9
1.3.5 Economic Development.....	1-10
1.3.5.1 Economic Growth.....	1-10
1.3.5.2 Central Business District.....	1-10
1.3.6 Modal Interrelationships	1-11
2.0 Alternatives.....	2-1
2.1 No-Build Alternative (Alternative A).....	2-1
2.2 Feasibility Alternatives	2-1
2.2.1 Operational Improvements.....	2-1
2.2.2 In-Town Alternative Scenarios	2-3
2.2.2.1 Scenario 1.....	2-3
2.2.2.2 Scenario 2.....	2-3
2.2.3 Alternative B	2-6
2.2.4 Alternative C	2-6
2.2.5 Alternative D.....	2-8
2.2.6 Alternative E	2-8
2.2.7 Alternative F	2-8
2.3 Scoping Alternatives.....	2-9
2.3.1 Scoping Meeting	2-9

2.3.2	New Scoping Alternatives	2-10
	2.3.2.1 Alternative G.....	2-10
	2.3.2.2 Alternative H.....	2-10
	2.3.2.3 Alternative I.....	2-14
	2.3.2.4 Alternative J.....	2-14
	2.3.2.5 Alternative K.....	2-14
2.4	Initial Alternative Refinements.....	2-20
	2.4.1 Alternatives Meeting.....	2-20
	2.4.2 Alternative H.....	2-20
	2.4.3 Alternative L.....	2-20
	2.4.4 Alternative M.....	2-22
2.5	Native American Resources.....	2-22
2.6	Initial Alternatives Analysis	2-22
	2.6.1 Evaluation Measures.....	2-22
	2.6.1.1 Engineering.....	2-24
	2.6.1.2 Environmental.....	2-24
	2.6.1.3 Operations.....	2-24
	2.6.1.4 Costs.....	2-25
	2.6.2 Analysis of Alternatives.....	2-25
	2.6.3 Impact Summary.....	2-26
	2.6.4 Alternatives Screening	2-26
	2.6.4.1 Feasibility Alternatives	2-26
	2.6.4.2 Scoping Alternatives	2-30
	2.6.4.3 Alternatives Screening Conclusion	2-33
2.7	Refined Alternatives	2-33
	2.7.1 Railroad Coordination Meeting	2-33
	2.7.2 City of Tupelo Meeting.....	2-35
	2.7.3 Thoroughfare Committee Meeting	2-35
	2.7.4 Public Meeting	2-35
	2.7.5 Alternative L Refinements	2-36
	2.7.6 Native American Resource Impacts.....	2-38
	2.7.7 Refined Alternatives Analysis	2-38
	2.7.8 Refined Alternatives Screening	2-38
	2.7.9 Refined Alternatives Conclusion	2-40
2.8	Reasonable Alternatives.....	2-40
	2.8.1 Reasonable Alternatives Descriptions	2-40
	2.8.2 Reasonable Alternatives Analysis.....	2-41
	2.8.3 Agency Coordination	2-46
	2.8.4 Reasonable Alternatives Screening.....	2-47
2.9	Design Alternatives.....	2-48
	2.9.1 No Build Alternative.....	2-48
	2.9.2 Build Alternative.....	2-49
	2.9.2.1 Rail Typical Sections	2-49
	2.9.2.2 Rail Alignment.....	2-49
	2.9.2.2.1 Horizontal Alignment	2-49

2.9.2.2	Vertical Alignment.....	2-54
2.9.2.3	Right-of-Way and Relocations	2-54
2.9.2.4	Structures	2-55
2.9.2.5	Drainage	2-56
2.9.2.6	Roadway Improvements	2-56
2.9.2.7	Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities	2-57
2.9.2.8	Construction.....	2-59
2.9.2.8.1	Phase I.....	2-59
2.9.2.8.2	Phase II.....	2-60
2.9.2.8.3	Phase III	2-62
2.9.2.9	Railroad Operations	2-63
2.9.2.10	Project Costs	2-64
3.0	Affected Environment	3-1
3.1	Study Area	3-1
3.2	Land Use	3-3
3.2.1	Existing Land Use.....	3-3
3.2.2	Proposed Land Use	3-6
3.2.2.1	Zoning	3-6
3.2.2.2	Overlay Districts	3-9
3.3	Farmland	3-11
3.4	History and Demographics	3-12
3.4.1	History.....	3-12
3.4.2	Demographics	3-12
3.4.3	Environmental Justice	3-12
3.5	Community Facilities.....	3-13
3.5.1	Neighborhoods.....	3-13
3.5.2	Schools.....	3-15
3.5.3	Churches and Cemeteries.....	3-16
3.5.4	Public Facilities.....	3-16
3.5.5	Parks and Recreation.....	3-16
3.5.6	Medical and Emergency Services.....	3-18
3.5.6.1	Medical and Health Services	3-18
3.5.6.2	Fire Department	3-18
3.5.6.3	Police Department.....	3-20
3.6	Cultural Resources	3-21
3.6.1	Archaeological Sites	3-22
3.6.2	Architectural Resources	3-22
3.6.3	Native American Resources.....	3-24
3.7	Air Quality	3-25
3.8	Noise and Vibration	3-27
3.8.1	Noise	3-27
3.8.2	Vibration	3-29
3.9	Geological Resources.....	3-30
3.9.1	Geology and Topography	3-30

3.9.2	Soils.....	3-32
3.10	Wetlands	3-33
3.11	Floodplains.....	3-35
3.12	Hydrology and Water Resources	3-37
	3.12.1 Surface Waters	3-37
	3.12.2 Designated Use	3-39
	3.12.3 Water Resources Management	3-39
	3.12.4 Wild and Scenic Rivers.....	3-39
	3.12.5 Groundwater	3-40
3.13	Federally Funded and Protected Public Facilities.....	3-40
	3.13.1 Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act.....	3-40
	3.13.2 Section 6(f)(3) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.....	3-42
	3.13.3 National Trails System Act.....	3-42
3.14	Wildlife	3-43
	3.14.1 Vegetative Communities.....	3-43
	3.14.2 Terrestrial Habitat	3-44
	3.14.3 Aquatic Habitat	3-44
	3.14.4 Threatened and Endangered Species	3-44
	3.14.4.1 Federally Listed Species	3-44
	3.14.4.2 Critical Habitats	3-45
	3.14.4.3 State Listed Species	3-45
	3.14.5 Conservation Easements	3-46
3.15	Hazardous Materials	3-46
	3.15.1 Historical Information.....	3-46
	3.15.2 Federal and State Records Storing Data on Industrial Waste	3-46
3.16	Aesthetics and Visual Resources	3-48
3.17	Transportation and Utilities	3-49
	3.17.1 Highways	3-49
	3.17.2 Airports	3-51
	3.17.3 Public Transportation.....	3-51
	3.17.4 Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities	3-51
	3.17.5 Utilities.....	3-52
4.0	Environmental Consequences.....	4-1
4.1	Land Use	4-1
	4.1.1 Impacts to Existing Land Use	4-1
	4.1.2 Impacts to Proposed Land Use	4-3
	4.1.2.1 Consistency with Comprehensive Plans	4-3
	4.1.2.2 Zoning Impacts	4-4
	4.1.2.3 Impacts to Overlay Districts	4-6
4.2	Farmland	4-6
4.3	Environmental Justice.....	4-6
4.4	Public Facilities and Community Cohesion.....	4-9
	4.4.1 Neighborhoods	4-9
	4.4.2 Schools	4-9

4.4.3	Churches and Cemeteries.....	4-11
4.4.4	Public Facilities.....	4-11
4.4.5	Parks and Recreation.....	4-13
4.4.6	Medical and Emergency Services.....	4-15
4.4.7	Travel Patterns and Accessibility.....	4-15
4.5	Cultural Resources	4-17
4.5.1	Archeological and Historic Sites	4-17
4.5.2	Native American Resources.....	4-22
4.6	Air Quality	4-23
4.7	Noise and Vibration	4-24
4.7.1	Noise	4-24
4.7.2	Vibration	4-26
4.8	Geological Resources.....	4-32
4.9	Wetlands	4-32
4.10	Floodplains.....	4-34
4.11	Hydrology and Water Resources	4-36
4.11.1	Surface Waters	4-36
4.11.2	Designated Use	4-39
4.11.3	Water Resources Management	4-40
4.11.4	Wild and Scenic Rivers.....	4-40
4.11.5	Groundwater	4-40
4.12	Federally Funded and Protected Public Facilities.....	4-42
4.12.1	Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act Impacts	4-42
4.12.2	Section 6(f)(3) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act Impacts	4-46
4.12.3	National Trails System Act Impacts	4-46
4.13	Wildlife	4-47
4.13.1	Vegetative Communities.....	4-47
4.13.2	Terrestrial Habitat	4-48
4.13.3	Aquatic Habitat	4-48
4.13.4	Threatened and Endangered Species	4-49
4.13.5	Conservation Easements	4-49
4.14	Hazardous Materials	4-50
4.15	Aesthetics and Visual Resources	4-50
4.16	Transportation and Utilities	4-63
4.16.1	Highways	4-63
4.16.2	Airports	4-64
4.16.3	Public Transportation.....	4-64
4.16.4	Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities	4-64
4.16.5	Utilities.....	4-65
4.17	Energy Impacts	4-66
4.18	Construction Impacts	4-67
4.19	Indirect and Cumulative Impacts	4-69
4.19.1	Indirect Impacts	4-69
4.19.1.1	Land Use	4-70

4.19.1.2	Farmlands.....	4-71
4.19.1.3	Socioeconomic Conditions	4-71
4.19.1.4	Environmental Justice.....	4-71
4.19.1.5	Public Facilities and Community Cohesion.....	4-71
4.19.1.6	Cultural Resources	4-72
4.19.1.7	Air Quality	4-72
4.19.1.8	Noise and Vibration	4-73
4.19.1.9	Geological Resources.....	4-73
4.19.1.10	Wetlands	4-73
4.19.1.11	Floodplains.....	4-73
4.19.1.12	Hydrology and Water Resources	4-73
4.19.1.13	Federally Funded and Protected Public Facilities.....	4-74
4.19.1.14	Wildlife	4-74
4.19.1.15	Hazardous Materials	4-74
4.19.1.16	Aesthetic and Visual Resources.....	4-75
4.19.1.17	Summary of Potential Impacts.....	4-75
4.19.2	Cumulative Impacts	4-75
4.19.2.1	Land Use	4-78
4.19.2.2	Noise and Vibration	4-80
4.19.2.3	Waters of the U.S.....	4-81
4.19.2.4	Floodplains.....	4-82
4.20	Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources	4-83
4.21	Relationship between Short-Term Impacts and Long-Term Benefits	4-84
4.22	Summary of Impacts	4-85
5.0	Agency Coordination and Public Involvement	5-1
5.1	Agency Coordination	5-1
5.1.1	Kick-Off Meeting.....	5-1
5.1.2	Notice of Intent	5-1
5.1.3	Scoping Meetings.....	5-1
5.1.4	Other Agency Meetings	5-2
5.2	Public Involvement	5-4
5.2.1	Public Information	5-4
5.2.2	Scoping Meeting	5-5
5.2.3	Public Alternatives Meeting	5-6
5.2.4	Public Hearing	5-6
6.0	Funding Alternatives	6-1
6.1	Federal Programs	6-2
6.1.1	Section 130 Rail-Highway Grade Crossing Program	6-2
6.1.2	National Highway System (NHS) Program.....	6-2
6.1.3	Surface Transportation Program (STP)	6-3
6.1.4	Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program.....	6-3
6.1.5	Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA)..	6-3

6.1.6	Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF)	6-3
6.1.7	Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle (GARVEE)	6-4
6.1.8	High Priority Project Program	6-5
6.1.9	National Corridor Planning and Development (NCPD) and Coordinated Border Infrastructure (CBI) Programs	6-5
6.1.10	Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant Program	6-6
6.1.11	Rail Line Relocation and Improvement Capital Grant Program	6-6
6.1.12	Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008	6-7
6.1.13	Summary of Federal Programs	6-7
6.2	State Programs	6-10
6.2.1	Mississippi Freight Rail Service Projects Revolving Loan/Grant Program (RAIL).....	6-10
6.2.2	Industrial Rail Access Program (IRAP).....	6-11
6.3	Public-Private Partnerships.....	6-12
6.4	Olathe Case Study.....	6-13
7.0	List of Preparers	7-1
8.0	Distribution List	8-1
9.0	Glossary	9-1

Appendix

- Appendix A – Agency Correspondence**
- Appendix B – Public Comments**
- Appendix C – Preferred Alternative Cost Estimates**
- Appendix D – Preferred Alternative Concept Plans**
- Appendix E – Draft Noise and Vibration Study**
- Appendix F – Draft Historic Resources Memorandum of Agreement**
- Appendix G – Public Hearing Summary and Transcript**

Index of Tables

Table ES-1	Summary of Impacts	ES-3
Table 1-1	At-Grade Crossing LOS Summary	1-5
Table 1-2	Nearby Intersection LOS Summary.....	1-6
Table 1-3	Cumulative Cost of Congestion from Year 2005 to Year 2030.....	1-6
Table 2-1	Alternative Evaluation Measures	2-27
Table 2-2	Alternative Evaluation Matrix	2-28
Table 2-3	Summary of Public Comments	2-36
Table 2-4	Refined Alternatives Evaluation Measures.....	2-39
Table 2-5	Refined Alternatives Evaluation Matrix	2-39
Table 2-6	Reasonable Alternatives Evaluation Measures	2-43
Table 2-7	Reasonable Alternatives Evaluation Matrix	2-47
Table 2-8	Proposed Horizontal Alignment BNSF Main Line and Interchange	2-53
Table 2-9	Proposed Vertical Alignment BNSF Main Line and Interchange	2-54
Table 2-10	Drainage Structures on BNSF Main Line	2-58
Table 2-11	Project Construction Costs.....	2-66
Table 3-1	Existing Land Use within the City of Tupelo	3-3
Table 3-2	Zoning within the City of Tupelo	3-6
Table 3-3	Criteria for NRHP Eligibility	3-21
Table 3-4	FTA/FRA Land Use Categories and Noise Metrics	3-28
Table 4-1	Existing Land Use within ½-Mile of Build Alternative	4-1
Table 4-2	Zoning within ½-Mile of Build Alternative.....	4-4
Table 4-3	Potential Environmental Justice Concerns within ½-mile of Build Alternative.....	4-8
Table 4-4	At-Grade Crossing Peak Hour LOS.....	4-16
Table 4-5	Nearby Intersection Peak Hour LOS	4-17
Table 4-6	Affected NHRP Listed and Eligible Sites with the Project APE.....	4-20
Table 4-7	Emission Reduction in Year 2030 from Auto Traffic Delay	4-23
Table 4-8	Existing and Future Train Volumes and Consists.....	4-25
Table 4-9	Predicted FTA/FRA Noise Impacts	4-25
Table 4-10	Potential Section 4(f) Impacts.....	4-45
Table 4-11	Aesthetic and Visual Impacts from Build Alternative	4-53
Table 4-12	Utilities Affected by the Build Alternative	4-65
Table 4-13	Average Daily Vehicle Miles and Hours During PM Peak Hours	4-66
Table 4-14	Summary of Direct and Indirect Impacts.....	4-76
Table 4-15	Summary of Impacts	4-85
Table 5-1	Summary of Comments from Scoping Meeting	5-5
Table 5-2	Summary of Comments from Alternatives Meeting.....	5-6
Table 6-1	Current and Proposed Federal Funding Programs	6-8
Table 6-2	Sampling of State Industrial Rail Access Programs	6-11

Index of Figures

Figure 1-1	Location Map	1-2
Figure 1-2	Existing At-Grade Rail Crossings.....	1-4
Figure 2-1	Operational Improvement	2-2
Figure 2-2	In-Town Alternative Scenario 1.....	2-4
Figure 2-3	In-Town Alternative Scenario 2.....	2-5
Figure 2-4	Alternatives B-F.....	2-7
Figure 2-5	Alternative H – Option A.....	2-11
Figure 2-6	Alternative H – Option B.....	2-12
Figure 2-7	Alternative H – Option C.....	2-13
Figure 2-8	Alternative I	2-15
Figure 2-9	Elevated Rail Typical Sections	2-16
Figure 2-10	Alternative J	2-18
Figure 2-11	Alternative K.....	2-19
Figure 2-12	Alternative L	2-21
Figure 2-13	Chickasaw Settlements	2-23
Figure 2-14	Alternative L (Refined).....	2-37
Figure 2-15	Alternative M	2-42
Figure 2-16	Build Alternative.....	2-50
Figure 2-17	Typical Sections.....	2-51
Figure 2-18	Maintenance of Rail Traffic Typical Section.....	2-61
Figure 3-1	Study Area	3-2
Figure 3-2	Affected Environment.....	3-4
Figure 3-3	Existing Land Use.....	3-5
Figure 3-4	Zoning	3-7
Figure 3-5	Overlay Districts	3-10
Figure 3-6	Neighborhoods and Protection Districts	3-14
Figure 3-7	Parks and Recreation.....	3-17
Figure 3-8	Emergency Services.....	3-19
Figure 3-9	Cultural Resources	3-23
Figure 3-10	Major Land Resources	3-31
Figure 3-11	Wetlands and Hydric Soils.....	3-34
Figure 3-12	FEMA Floodplains.....	3-36
Figure 3-13	Sub-basins / Watersheds	3-38
Figure 3-14	Aquifer	3-41
Figure 3-15	Transportation Network	3-50
Figure 4-1	Existing Land Use.....	4-2
Figure 4-2	Zoning	4-5
Figure 4-3	Neighborhoods & Protection Districts.....	4-10
Figure 4-4	Community Services.....	4-12
Figure 4-5	Parks and Recreation.....	4-14
Figure 4-6	Cultural Resources	4-19
Figure 4-7	No-Build Noise Impact Contours	4-27
Figure 4-8	Build Noise Impact Contours.....	4-28

Figure 4-9	No-Build Vibration Impact Contours	4-30
Figure 4-10	Build Vibration Impact Contours.....	4-31
Figure 4-11	Wetlands & Hydric Soils	4-33
Figure 4-12	FEMA Floodplains.....	4-35
Figure 4-13	Aquifer.....	4-41
Figure 4-14	Hazardous Material Sites	4-51
Figure 4-15	Viewshed.....	4-52